As regards its inclusion in the Central lists of OBC for all the States, it may be stated that the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has examined the issue and advised the Central Government to include 'Jat' community in the Central list of OBCs for Rajasthan (except in Bharatpur and Dhaulpur districts) only and not for other States.

New welfare schemes for senior citizens

†862. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the new welfare schemes formulated for the benefit of senior citizens of the country;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have also issued directions to the courts with regard to early disposal of their cases which are laying pending for a long period; and

(d) if so, the number of the senior citizens likley to be benefited till the end of the year 2001 by it?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The two schemes i.e. (i) Integrated programmes for Older Persons, and (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help, Groups for construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centre for Older Persons, are being implemented throughout the country, since the financial years 1992-93 and 1996-97 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) the figures of persons benefited are maintained by the NGOs, private institutions and State Governments who implement these programmes.

Welfare schemes for SCs/STs, Minorities Etc. in Maharashtra

863. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes and programmes formulated by Government for the upliftment of SCs/STs/Adivasis/Minorities and other weaker sections of the society in Maharashtra during the last five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.